

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/771,542

Examiner

James S. Wozniak

Applicant(s)

OKANO, HIDEO

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/27/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-11 and 18-21 (now 1-11).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

W. R. YOUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. In response to the office action from 8/31/2005, the applicant has submitted an amendment, filed 10/27/2005, canceling claims 1, 2, 4, 13-17, and 23-26, thereby rendering the previous claim rejections moot. Thus, since only the claims containing previously indicated allowable subject matter remain, claims 5-11 and 18-21 are allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons given below.

2. In light of the applicant's arguments regarding the certified foreign priority document (amendment, page 12), the examiner acknowledges the receipt of the document and the claim for foreign priority based on the 2000-022752 application filed in Japan on 1/31/2000.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 5-11 and 18-21 are allowable over the prior art of record.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to **Claims 5, 8, and 18**, the prior art of record fails to explicitly teach or fairly suggest a system or computer program stored on a computer readable medium that assigns a connection number to a plurality of USB voice recording and reproducing apparatuses

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(external data recording and reproducing apparatuses) when one of the apparatuses is connected to a personal computer (information processing apparatus), acquires an apparatus identification code from a connected apparatus, stores the connection and ID codes in a data table, and displays the connection and ID information stored in the table to allow a user to select an ID or connection number and a subsequent apparatus based on the selected number to change device-related data stored in the table which is used to further update a recorded voice file header. Prior art such as Terui (*U.S. Patent: 5,903,871*) and Kato (*U.S. Patent: 5,974,005*) disclose similar apparatuses and recording mediums, but fails to teach the recited apparatus and recording medium wherein it comprises a connection number allocation means for, after connecting the external voice recording and reproducing USB apparatuses to the information processing apparatus, allocating a connection number to each of the connected external data recording and reproducing apparatuses in combination with first selecting a connection number and ID to further choose a voice recording device for changing its associated control data. Dependent claims 6-7, 9-11 and 19-21 are allowed because they further limit their parent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James S. Wozniak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7632.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 7:30-5:00, F, 7:30-4, Off Alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

James S. Wozniak
11/4/2005



W. R. YOUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER